

Scully ('49), the voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Baseball Hall of Fame broadcaster, and Radio Hall of Famer. The significant contributions these individuals have made to the field of journalism are a testament to the true spirit of excellence instilled in them at The Fordham Ram.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that my distinguished colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the Fordham Ram for its 100 years of remarkable dedication to fair journalism and its longstanding commitment to improving The Bronx.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE DAVID GARCIA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable David Garcia, Judge of Denton County Criminal Court No. 3, for his service to Denton County and to the many combat veterans he has impacted through his work with the Denton County Veterans Treatment Court Program (VTCP).

Judge Garcia was appointed to the Denton County Criminal Court No. 3 on September 1, 1997 and will conclude his tenure at the end of December after 21 years of service to our community. Since 2012, he has presided over the Veterans Court. After his appointment to the Court, Judge Garcia not only completed a backlog of cases, but he also built a new model for veterans courts that prioritizes improving the quality of mental health care available to justice-involved veterans. Under his guidance, the veterans court provided evaluation and treatment for certain veterans' combat-related mental illnesses. In his role, Judge Garcia shifted the focus in sentencing from the pursuit of judicial compliance and reduced recidivism toward a regimen that allows combat veterans suffering from the impact of PTSD and MST to graduate from the VTCP program and return to their families and communities with charges dismissed.

As a Member of Congress, one of my greatest privileges is to support veterans in North Texas and around the country. During his two decades of service, Judge Garcia has advocated for broader veteran health care access by supporting the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 and the VA MISSION Act of 2018, legislation that improves care for those who have sacrificed and served for our country. On behalf of the 26th District of Texas, I extend my sincere appreciation to Judge Garcia for the contributions he has made to the Denton County community and to our region's veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, I was unable to be in Washington and missed roll call votes No. 436 "Concurring in the Senate

Amendment to H.R. 1222—Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of.", No. 437 "Concurring in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6615—Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2018.", No. 438 "To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.", No. 439 "To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve health care in rural areas.", No. 440 "To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a security vulnerability disclosure policy, to establish a bug bounty program for the Department of Homeland Security, to amend title 41, United States Code, to provide for Federal acquisition supply chain security, and for other purposes.", No. 441 "To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for an integrated planning process, to promote green infrastructure, and for other purposes.", No. 442 "Concurring in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6227—National Quantum Initiative Act.", No. 443 "To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities, easements, and rights-of-way to the Kennewick Irrigation District, and for other purposes.", No. 444 "To expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, and for other purposes.", and No. 445 "To reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all ten bills.

LIBERALISM EXPLAINED

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now have a unified theory that I believe explains the ideology of liberals.

It covers their views of virtually any subject—higher taxes, open borders, more regulations, and the traducing of traditional values.

The reason liberals want more government control is so they can control our daily lives. The reason liberals want to control our daily lives is because they think they are smarter than the American people. The reason they think they are smarter than the American people is . . . well, there is no good reason.

I'm sure many liberals are well-meaning. They want what they feel is best for the country. But that's the problem. They want to impose their views on the American people.

Conservatives want to conserve values and protect freedoms—free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom from excessive government control. That, I believe is what Americans want too.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call vote 437. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 437.

RECOGNIZING THE VALDOSTA STATE FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on December 15, 2018, the Valdosta State University Blazers football team secured their fourth NCAA Division II Football National Championship in a 49–47 thriller over Ferris State University in McKinney, Texas. The Blazers 2018 season was anything but ordinary, finishing 14–0 and scoring 50+ points in eight out of 14 games this season.

Valdosta, Georgia in Georgia's Eighth District is affectionately known as "Title Town," home to football powerhouses in the state and across the nation at both the high school and collegiate levels.

I want to congratulate the Blazers, Coach Kerwin Bell, Valdosta State President Richard Carvajal, and the entire football and athletics staff at Valdosta State for this accomplishment. Georgia is very proud of you, and I hope you will take time to celebrate another title in Titledtown.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR. CURTIS RAY GOODE

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Curtis Ray Goode of Marion County in the 1st District of Kentucky who passed away on December 17, 2018. Born November 8, 1946, Mr. Goode valiantly served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. After serving his country, he was not only a talented diesel mechanic with UPS in Louisville but steadfastly worked for the betterment of his fellow veterans as a devoted member of the Marion County Veterans Honor Guard, the Lebanon VFW, and the American Legion.

Mr. Goode's service in the United States Marine Corps is evidence of his dedication to safeguarding our nation's freedoms and values and is worthy of our deepest respect and admiration. His patriotic spirit and dedication to his country were rivaled only by his fervent commitment to his family and his enthusiasm for serving others.

I join with his family and loved ones—including his wife of 51 years, Christine Goode, his children, and his extended family—in celebrating his lifetime of accomplishments and recognizing his noble service to our nation. His outstanding legacy of service and compassion lives on in each member of his family and in all those who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and could not make it to votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 436, 437; YEA on Roll Call No. 438, 439; YEA on Roll Call No. 440, 441; YEA on Roll Call No. 442, 443; and YEA on Roll Call No. 444, 445.

CHINA IS CHEATING ITS WAY TO THE TOP

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Communist China is a growing threat to the United States and global peace. Its values and interests do not match our own. This is evident by recent reports of a atheist China imprisoning thousands of Muslim Uighurs in reeducation camps and the ongoing persecution of Tibetans and Chinese Christians. China's interests completely conflict with our democratic principles and the international order that has kept the peace since the end of the Second World War. China is cheating, stealing, and bullying its way towards great power status. It is our duty to stand up to Beijing's bad behavior.

Two decades ago, America, as the leader of the free world and the largest economy on Earth, gave the People's Republic of China a chance to prove itself as member of the global economy. We believed they were making free market reforms and potentially ending their communist system which had kept millions in poverty. By granting Beijing permanent normal trade relations, many in Congress hope that opening the global market to China would encourage further liberalization within the repressive state. But instead of the world changing China, China has been working to change the world to get ahead. While it did embrace some elements of capitalism, it bent the rules using state-owned enterprises and corruption to cheat. It made investments in innovative American companies so it could steal technology. It forced American companies wanting to do business in China to surrender certain rights, including intellectual property. And Beijing instituted a widespread cyber theft campaign to steal trade secrets and cutting-edge research. Beijing made the decision to cheat the international system it was invited into so that it could gain strategic dominance.

Until now, China's deception worked. It even tried to export its unfair business practices through the Belt and Road Initiative. But this too proved to be a giant debt trap that Beijing sold to developing nations. Countries like Sri Lanka and Malaysia have ended their participation in China's ambitious plan because they realized that all of the projects the People's Republic was building in their countries benefited only China. Even the workers employed to construct Belt and Road infrastructure in these countries were Chinese rather than local workers. Instead they were left with were roads to nowhere and crushing debt to China. Fortunately, the world is waking up to Beijing's modern colonialism.

But China's ambition to pull ahead at others expense did not end there. Within all of Beijing's economic malpractice, it has aimed to seize technology and strategic positioning that would also give it a military edge over the United States. By stealing American technology, China has been able field advance

weapon systems before our own forces. Meanwhile through Belt and Road, China acquired ports and airports around the globe that can be used as military bases that then enable them to control strategic chokepoints and resources without firing a shot. We have most evidently seen this in illegal island building in the South China Sea. Combined with its rapid military build-up, which will give China a fleet that outnumbers the U.S. Navy by 2020, we are quickly losing our military supremacy to China. The ramifications of such a dramatic shift in power from the U.S. to China will be devastating to our way of life.

Against an authoritarian China that can overmatch our own forces, American will be severely limited in how it protects its interests abroad and respond to Chinese aggression. Principles such as freedom of the seas and free flow of trade will be in jeopardy, having a direct impact on the daily lives of Americans. We must also remember that throughout history such major shifts in geopolitical power rarely came peacefully. In humanity's enduring battle between tyranny and democracy, America has played a decisive role in creating world where freedom preserved over evil. That world is now again in danger.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. DENNIS WAYNE WOOD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Rev. Dennis Wayne Wood.

Dennis served in the United States Army Military Police Corps for 21 years and retired as First Sergeant. He was married to Judy for 53 years and was blessed with three daughters: Kim, Lori and Misty and nine grandchildren.

Dennis owned and operated American Awards in Anniston, Alabama, for over 30 years. He served as pastor of several churches in Calhoun County and was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Weaver. Dennis served as a deacon there and one year as chairman of the deacons. He taught Sunday School, lead the Operation Christmas Child Program at the church and served as a volunteer chaplain at Regional Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Rev. Dennis Wayne Wood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444 and 445.

TRIBUTE TO DARRIN SCHRADER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank Darrin Schrader, who has served this House proudly for over 25 years. He began his career in the office of Representative Bill Baker (R-CA), and then transitioned to my office in 1997. Darrin has been by my side, as my aide-de-camp, for the last 22 years, and I would have it no other way.

His loyalty and dedication to the job of serving the people of Southern California is unsurpassed. As my special assistant, Darrin personally oversaw millions of constituent correspondence; a task that grew exponentially with the advent of email. He also helped secure millions in funding for important infrastructure and homeland security projects.

My office has been served well by Darrin's encyclopedic memory and masterful research skills. He has often known the answer to my question before I even ask it. Few can match his resourcefulness or reliability.

While sometimes presenting a stoic façade, Darrin's subtle charm and hidden humor have permeated my office for the last two decades. He has earned the respect of his peers and become an integral and irreplaceable member of Team Royce.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Darrin Schrader for his selfless sacrifice to public service.

IN HONOR OF MRS. PEARL SEIDMAN FOR HER DEDICATED CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and show my utmost gratitude to a deeply valued member of my staff, Mrs. Pearl Seidman. On Friday, December 21, 2018, Pearl will bid her final farewell after a year as my Brookings Legislative Fellow to continue her career at the National Security Agency. Since her first day on the job in January, Pearl has overseen a legislative portfolio that includes: healthcare, energy, environment, natural resources, labor, pensions, social security, and postal issues, some of the most critical issues facing my constituents. Over the past year, Pearl has dedicated her time to serving the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri with nothing short of unconditional integrity and drive. Now, I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks on behalf of myself and the constituents she has served so honorably.

Pearl was born in Newark, New Jersey, however, she spent the majority of her upbringing split between Philadelphia and Baltimore, respectively. Following her graduation from high school, Pearl would embark on a lifelong commitment to learning and serving others. Pearl would go on to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland, a Masters in Applied Behavioral